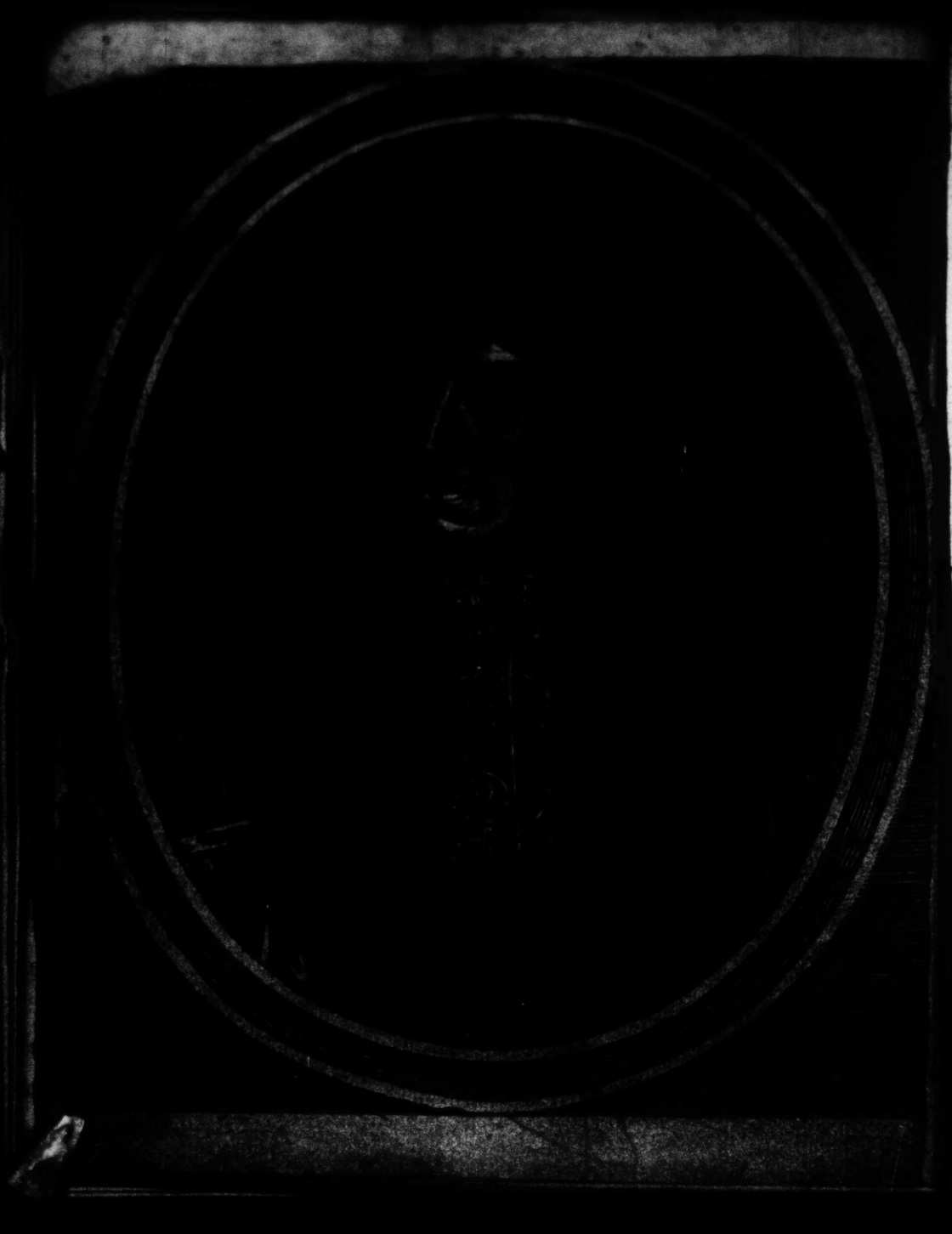
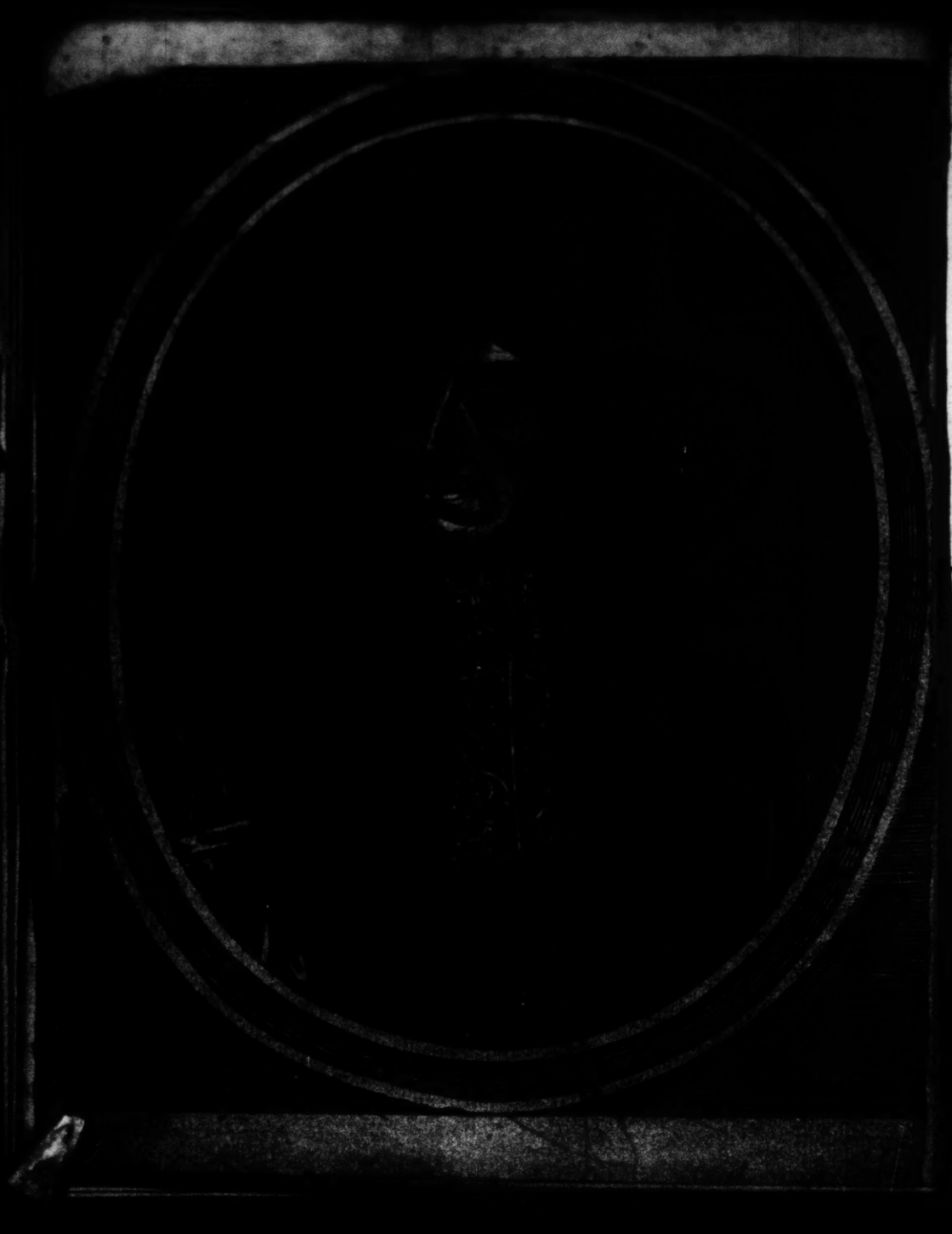




# DESCRIPTION
OF THE
# PLAZA,
Or Sumptuous
## Market-Place
OF THE
# MADRID,
AND THE
## Bull-Baiting
THERE:
Together with the Hiſtory of the Famous and much Admired Pl[illegible]
At all the large Scheme, being the Lively [illegible]
of the Order and Ornaments of the Building.

By [illegible] a Spaniard

[illegible]

# DESCRIPTION

OF THE

# PLAZA,

Or Sumptuous

# Market-Place,

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

IN THE

# Bull-Ring

THERE:

Together with the History of the
Famous and much Admired Pla[illegible]

As also a large Selenic, being the Lively
Representation of the Order and Ornament of this
Solemnity.

By James Salgado a Spaniard.

LONDON, Printed by Peter Clark, for the Author.
Anno Dom. 1681.

TO THE

# MOST SERENE And MIGHTY CHARLES II.

*By the Grace of God of* Great Britain, France *and* Ireland *King, Defender of the Faith*, &c.

*May it please Your Most Excellent Majesty,*

YOur Royal Name was prefixed to this other Manual of mine the last year, but I had not the Confidence to prefer it to Your Sacred Majesty with the same: It was not that I judged the Subject matter altogether despicable,

cable, and unworthy of Acceptation; but because my Timerous and Bashful Disposition induced me to believe that it was every way sufficient, to be Honoured with the Name of such an Inestimable and Noble Patron: But yet for all that, my Pinching want has, now at length, prevail'd with me to shake off these Thoughts, in regard that so great an Honour, attended with somthing else (Your Majesty conceives my meaning) would, beyond all peradventure, contribute the more to my present Straitned condition. Wherefore I Prostrate my Self and Labours at Your Royal Feet, looking upon it as my greatest Happiness, if Your Majesty may be pleased to spend some few Minutes

nutes for a Recreation, in the perusal of this short Description of the *Bull-Baiting* at *Madrid*: But if good Fortune deny me this Honour, I must Patiently bear in the Lot of my Country-men, who now a-days are generally Unfortunate. However, Your Majesties long Life, Prosperous Reign, and Eternal Happiness, shall in all Circumstances, be the most Earnest Prayer of

*Your Majesties most*

*Devoted Supplicant,*

James Salgado a Spaniard.

TO THE

# READER.

Reader,

I *have taken a view of* Spain, France, Italy, *and the* United Netherlands, *but I must confess, I did never see* (except here in England) *such a crowd of* Authors, Printers, Book-binders, Stationers, Gazetts, Observators, Pacquets, Mercuries, Intelligences, *and* Bills *of* Chyrurgions, *calling themselves* Doctors *forsooth. Whilest, in very deed, they ought to be stiled* Mountebanks. *In a word, I don't remember to have seen a People so much busi'd with, and Fond upon Novelties. While, therefore, I stood amaz'd, behold pinching Want, and simple Bashfulness* (*by way of a Dialogue*) *made their address unto me; the former in these following words.* I *see you are a Stranger, and ought*

to

*to be encouraged by, and believed under the Protection of the Generous English Nation. For that cause, I judge it some near concernment to come with a full hand, if you look for any gracious acceptance. On the other side Shame replyes, Mr. Salgado believe my undissembled Simplicity, The English are most Ingenuous, and of a Pregnant Wit. What then can you expect by publishing any thing but Scorn and Contempt? For many will be apt to say, what meaneth this Ugly Pale Spaniard, who with his Whinging and Trifles buster our Printers, and creates us much trouble? What (unfeigned Necessity) Hunger constrains him to take such a course: For, Mr. Salgado (I'm confident) by all Laudable means endeavoureth to eschew hard Straits, not hunting after Airy Praise, and a great Name. Which the one saying stopt the mouth of Blushing Shame.*

*Thus being past Shame, I do set this Treatise on the Pillory,* i. e. *I stick not to expose it to the Censures of Carping Critiques. But methinks I hear a great many entertaining a Discourse to this purpose. 'Tis not worth*

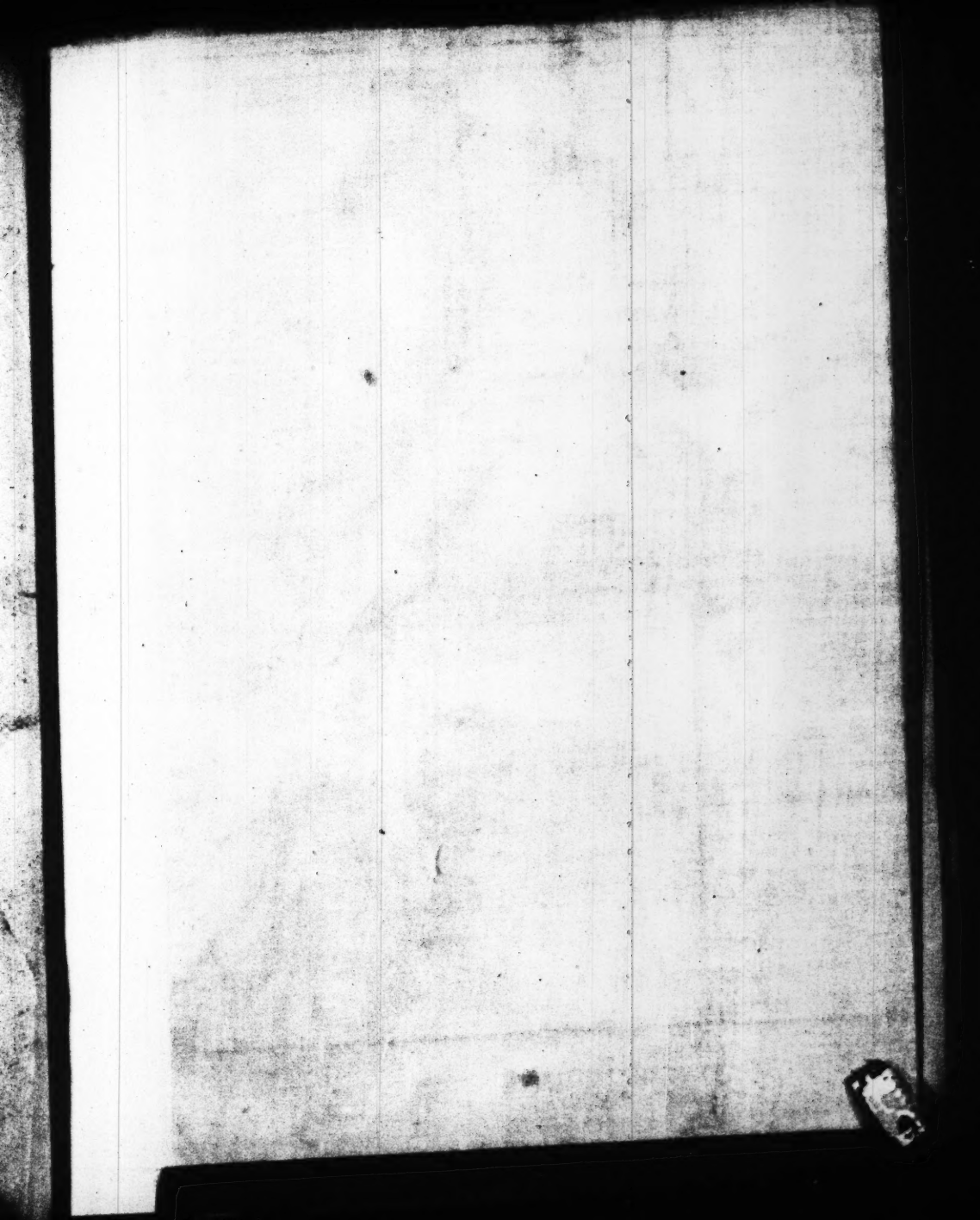
*I could not but take strict notice of a Poor [illegible] Scheme, seeing, Me-*
*thinks, I see no [illegible]*
*If therefore, most Noble, Puissant, Anci-*
*ent and Generous English, or rather Angu-*
*lical Nation, (for you are my Tutelar Angels,*
*in regard that those five years, and above,*
*I have enjoyed Life and Sanctuary by your*
*Protection and Benigne Generosity) I present*
*you with this Solemnity of the Bulls at Ma-*
*drid, my Native Soyl. If any thing therein*
*be amiss, I claim an interest in the clemency*
*of your Prowess; but if otherwise, look up-*
*on it [illegible] Testimony of my undissembled*
*Gratitude.*

[illegible] Hunger constrains him to take [illegible]
For, Mr. Salgado (I'm confident) by an
Laudable meanes endeavoureth to observe hers
Strait, not hunting after Airy Praise, and
Farewel.

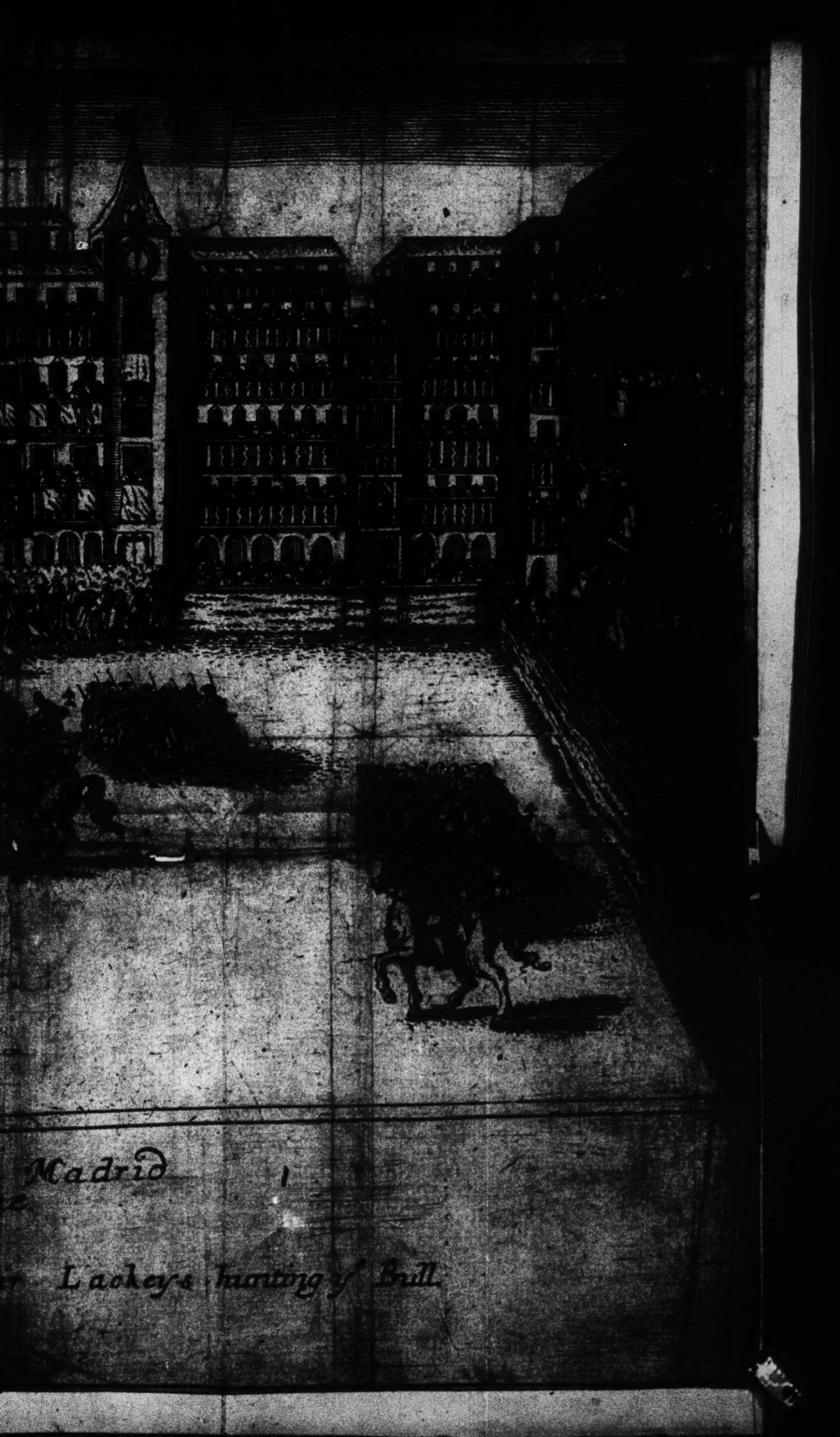
[illegible] which the one having Hope
the mouth of Blushing Shame.

Thus being put Shame, I do for this
Treatise on the Pillory, i. e. I pick not to
[illegible]
But methinks I hear a great many entertain-
ing a Discourse to this purpose. "Tis not
[illegible]

An



The Bull a Hunting
The Place there-of
1 The King and Queene
2 The Kings Counsell
3 The Embasadors
4 The Gentlemen with their
5 The Young Placito
6 The Bulls Stabls


Madrid
Lackeys hunting y' Bull

# An Impartial and Brief Description of the Plaza, or Spacious Market-place of Madrid, and the Bull-baiting there.

I Am certified by your Letter, that a commendable Curiosity has induced you to travel through France, Italy, and Germany, further, that had you not been perswaded to the contrary by Persons [illegible] to believe that no Book will [illegible] the Pleasure and [illegible] Consideration: Allure you [illegible]

and the yearly Festival at *Madrid*; I shall endeavour, according to my Bounden Duty, to satisfie your Curiosity in this point; insomuch, that from your Closet you may receive a full view of the *Spanish* Court, and its Magnificence, as also the goodly and large Fields of *Madrid*, without expending much, or exposing your Person to danger after the manner of most Travellers who repair thither; and for your greater clearness in the matter, I send you this large Scheme.

In describing the matter in hand, my Stile shall be plain, and the Relation Impartial; in regard that I bear no liking to disingenuity, or the forging of Romantick Novelties and Fictions.

As for the *Escurial*, we shall have a fairer opportunity to treat on it at another occasion: This in the general you may know, that, (according to the unanimous consent of all who have travelled thither) it is a thing very well worth the while. Our present Discourse then shall be wholly confin'd to the *Bull-baiting* (as it is called) at *Madrid*.

It has been the Fate of *Spain*, as that of other Puissant Nations, not to have escaped *Scot*-free of the frequent and noysome In-roads of many Cruel Adversaries of different Languages, Laws and Constitutions; so that some Veligias of the one must be supposed to remain, as well as the other. Those who did bear chief sway there, were the *Romans*, *Vandals*, *Goths* and *Saracens*; insomuch that the *Spanish* Tongue appears to be an Aggregat of the *Latine*, *Gothick* and *Arabick*.

Mobs. The Famous Anniversary, this Lord's Coronation, their Laws and Language, being the deepest Impression. Among other Gothick Constitutions, this Festival, which we are about to describe, is one.

You may easily object, that it is a Gothick and Barbarous Recreation, which is really so, and so much the rather, that its Original is derived from such a Barbarous Rabble as then was, and are to this day: Nevertheless, an uncontroul'd Custom of long continuance has given it the force and validity of a Law, and the most Honourable designation of a Royal Festival; which if any person of what Quality soever, should endeavour to Rectify, he should inevitably incur the risque of Reproach and Shame, if not a more sad Fate. In dealing therefore altogether extrinsick to any purpose, and the Province of a private man to determine anything against the Lawfulness and Unlawfulness of this Solemnity, I shall content my self by making a clear discovery thereof, for your greater satisfaction.

*Lincolns Inn Fields* and no other (for large and spacious as this place of publick resort is, there is) which is exactly Square, being surrounded with Houses Uniform all along in all their Dimensions, erected to the Altitude of five pair of Stairs, with a great many most Curious Windows, and Balconies, fitted with Chairs, Stools, Benches, and Forms, over the Square to Level to the end that the Fair Females, Ladies and Persons of Quality, may Command their Sports with the greatest Ease and Delight

rity. From the ground to the first pair of Stairs are raised up Theaters made of Timber for the People: The Thirty Balconies set apart for the King and Court, are sumptuously Furnish'd with the Richest Tapestry and choicest Velvet that Money or Art can purchase. Here it's observable, that all Noblemen, whose lot it is not to attend the Court for that present Quarter, are denyed the privilege of these Balconies; wherefore such persons may possess whatever other places they judge most convenient. In *Spain* there are divers kinds of Councels, as the King's Council; those of the *Inquisition*, *War*, *Indies*, *Italy*, the *Low-Countries*, and *Arragonia*, and consequently Councellors of different degrees and qualities; for which cause it is appointed, that each of those have their Balconies apart, Beautified with Silks and Tapestry of Colours differing, according to the diversity of those Officers and Officers.

All Ambassadors from Foraign Kings and Potentates are Treated after the same Fashion, except the Pope's Legate, whose Modesty and Piety (forsooth) have such a restraint upon him, that that Prophane Festival, not being of the Churches appointment, must not be Honoured with his Presence. All other ranks of persons Assembled there, may possess what Seats they are able to purchase. This day, because the general Confluence to this Common Play from all Corners, makes such a Crowd, that notwithstanding the great number of Theaters, Balconies, and Windows, mentioned

studied elsewhere, none can purchase a Room in the first pair of Stairs, at a lower rate, than 200. Crowns; yea and those places which are not exposed to the Scorching Heat of the Sun after four a Clock, must be supposed to amount to a greater sum of Money. Above the first Row of Windows, places may be got more easily. Seeing this Festival falls out yearly in the Months of *June* and *July*, any person may imagine, that a Refreshing Shadow cannot be enjoyed without much Money and great Moyan, because of the then extraordinary Heat of this place, which ordinarily is known to be a most Hot Climate. In the Cool of the Evening, (a most dangerous Season I confess) all persons promiscuously Throng thither, but chiefly about Ten of the Clock at Night, when the Affections are much delighted with a most Sweet Melody and Consort of Instrumental and Vocal Musick, and all occasions of that nature, the Guitar and Harp are most frequently used; because generally the *Spaniards* can Dextrously Play on those Instruments. Where it is observable, that all Musicians are had in great account at such a time; not respecting what persons they be, which is hardly discernable, in regard that all are disguis'd by most Gorgeous Apparel. It is further to be observed, that if the Jealous *Spaniard* can espy any man Complementing his Wife with Jocose Words or Kisses, without any consideration, he Furiously Assaults such a person with Sword and Cudgel. Whence arise many most Lamentable Tragedies, for the

pre-

preventing of which, the Law has wisely appointed a considerable number of *Alguazils*, whom we here call Constables, whose proper and sole Office it is, to mediate betwixt those persons, rewarding them with Bonds and Fetters for the commission of such Horrid Outrages.

The ensuing day about eight of the Clock in the Morning, no place can be found empty, whileas none of the Members of the Court are present, but the Mayor and Aldermen.

This Morning Game or Recreation (called *Encierro*, or the bringing forth of the *Bull*) is thus performed. There is a Gate in *Madrid*, *De la vega* by name, nigh to which a large Room is appointed for the Reception of the *Bulls* the day precedeing this Solemn Feast, where they are Gently Fed, rather to render them the more Furious, than in the least to strengthen the miserable Creatures. It's certain that for the most part, *Bulls* are more Furious in *Spain* than any other part of the World; and those more especially, such as Feed by the Rivers *Tago* and *Jarama* flowing betwixt *Toledo* and *Madrid*. But to return to our purpose; There is a long and straight Street or Lane adjoyning to the House in which the *Bulls* are shut up, and terminating in the place of publick resort, where all Passages are carefully stopt, only over against the foresaid Street there is another large Room left wide open, whether the Mad Animals do Throng, finding no other place of refuge left them; by which means a most safe course is contrived for leading

leading them forth to the Slaughter. I shall not detain you longer by relating other Passages of the Entertainment, for 'tis a matter scarce worth our while, as being destitute of Order and Ornament, by reason of the Courts Absence. About two of the Clock in the Afternoon twelve Gladiators repair to the place, where all are permitted to Fight whom Magnanimity, or Boldness shall excite thereto; which Liberty would unquestionably produce Sad Tragedies, if full Coffers and Empty Purses were not sufficient means to stop such Disorders. Two hours after, there appear the Nobility in their Stately Coaches, all the ground being Sprinkled over with Water, because of the Burning Heat of the Sun.

Which while 'tis a Setting, the King and Court, with the Councellors and Ambassadors are to be seen to the great Satisfaction of all persons. Upon the back of this the Royal Constables, being twelve in number, in good Equipage, and mounted on Horses with the Richest Harness imaginable, drive away all persons and Disorders; insomuch, that in a very short time the Constables are to be seen and none else in the plain Square. Afterwards twenty and four Hogsheads of Water are carried in Waggons, resembling so many Green Mountains, because of their Boughs, and being covered over with most Fragrant Herbs; those large Vessels are the Seats of twenty four men, who, upon demand, open the Bung-Holes, so that in an Instant the whole Plain is Besprinkled with Water. In the next place, the King's Life-

Guard

Guard consisting of 100. *Spaniards*, and as many *Germans*, attend His Majesty all along, being Armed with Halberts; whom Coats of Red and Yellow Silk, and Caps of the choicest Black Velvet, adorn exceedingly.

By this time methinks you have got a pretty clear *Idea* of what is Antecedaneous to the main thing in hand: So that, if the most Stately Balconies and Theaters, if the vast number of People, if the Nobility Gorgeously (I had said wonderfully) Arrayed, if the Kings Constables maintaining good Order, if in the last place His Majesties Life-Guard: I say, if each, and all of those be Impartially Canvassed by such a Considerative person as you are; I doubt not but you'l be constrain'd upon the most solid grounds and reasons imaginable to joyn with me in the commendation of this Festival beyond any Recreation in the World. I confess *France* and *Italy* Vaunt very much of their Splended Games, (as they call them,) and the *English* upon more just grounds extol the Costlines of their Prizes, and the Statelines of their Courling-Horses; But in my humble Opinion, what I'm a describing, may claim right to the Preheminence. Yet, if what has been hitherto said cannot sufficiently evince the Truth of this point, I shall endeavour to drive out one Fuming Bull, that by seeing the result of such an Enterprise, your Curiosity may receive the greater satisfaction.

We told you that the *Bull* was shut up in a large Room, therefore the person, whose undaunted

Courage,

Courage or Boldness sets him a work to Encounter with this Raging Creature; stands to the Pales at the Door of the said House with a strong and sharp-pointed Launce in his Hand, having one of his Knees set to the ground: Immediately after the Sound of a Trumpet, a Constable runs with all possible speed, and sets the Door of the Room, where the Furious Animal is enclosed, wide open: Way being thus made, and all persons Attentively looking on, the man is by and by Assaulted with great Violence, which on-set, if by Dexterity or good luck, he can evade; there is a fair occasion presented him for Killing or Wounding the *Bull* to purpose; which if he miss to do, his Life or Members are in Jeopardy. It's a thirsting desire after some imaginary Honour that sets such Bold Fellows upon the exposing of themselves to those dangerous circumstances, rather than the advantage of getting the Beasts which they have Killed, or Wounded to purpose.

That the next *Bull* may be rendred the more Furious, they set up a quantity of Wool, in Figure representing a man, with a considerable weight at his Legs; which while the Beast paiseth in a most formidable manner, the weight keeps it in a straight Position, by which means the *Bull* is wonderfully enraged. Sometimes a very despicable Peasant is set upon a Lean Deformed Horse, and exposed very often to a Violent Death, because of his Antagonists Strength and Rage. For dragging out the *Bull* once Killed, six *Mules* of divers Colours are appointed, which, by the conduct of fourteen, accomplish this work with all possible Velocity and Artifice. Six Foot-men are ordain'd to Encounter

with the four Beasts yet remaining, to whom no other Weapon is granted, but a Dagger with some few Reserves in it Sagg, which in length exceed not six or seven Inches, having Hafts well ordered with Bunches of Garlands, and Points exceeding sharp for the more ready carrying on of the Incendment. Such as be thus Stated are commonly most dextrous, whom it behooves to Fight with the *Bull* Face to Face; he who doth otherwise, will undoubtedly incur the risque of Imprisonment, with most abashing Reproaches, and the loss of a considerable Prize. Some men are so Nimble, that by a Gentle motion they can easily evade the *Bull's* Fury, and obtain their design. Thus matters go on until such time as the Trumpet Sounds, then Butchers Dogs and men Armed with Broad-Swords quickly dispatch the Strength and Violence of those formidable Animals.

Some years ago I remember upon an occasion of this kind to have seen a thing admirable indeed, *viz.* A young man of Twenty years Encountring with a big *Bull*, escaped all his Commissions by the Nimble and Dextrous activity of his Legs; afterwards he did leap upon his Back, and catching hold of his Left Horn, Wounded him in several places with the Reserves in which Posture he continued until the Trumpet was about to Sound, then (and not till then) he dispatched the Roaring *Bull* with his Dagger, having sustained no prejudice imaginable. All persons present were possest with a wonderful Opinion of the Youth, because of his surpassing Agility, Courage, Dexterity and Boldness. But seeing this example is remarkable, we shall insist on it at greater length hereafter. It

It will not be amiss here to mention what fell out upon such an occasion as this in the presence of *Charles* the first, of Blessed Memory: Who, while Prince of *Wales*, repaired to the Court of *Spain*, whether to be Married to the *Infanta*, or upon what other design, I cannot well determine: However all Comedies, Playes and Festivals, (this of the *Bulls* at *Madrid* being included, were appointed to be as decently and Manificently gone about, as possible, for the more Sumptuous and Stately Entertainment of such a Splended Prince. Therefore after three *Bulls* had been Killed, and the fourth a coming forth, there appeared four Gentlemen in good Equipage; not long after a Brisk Lady in most Gorgeous Apparel, attended with persons of quality, and some three or four Grooms walked all along the Square a Foot. Astonishment seized upon the Beholders that one of the Female Sex could assume the unheard Boldness of exposing her self to the violence of the most Furious Beast yet seen, which had overcome, yea almost Killed two men of great Strength, Courage and Dexterity. Inconcernedly the *Bull* rushed towards the Corner where the Lady and her Attendants stood, she (after all had fled) drew forth her Dagger very unconcernedly, and thrust it most dextrously into the *Bulls* Neck, having catched hold of his Horn (by which strength) without any more trouble, her design was brought to Perfection; after which, turning about towards the King's Balcony, she made her Obeysance, and withdrew her self in suitable State and Gravity. Sir, did you ever see or hear any example to parallel this? Wonderful indeed! that a Faint-hearted feeble

Woman (one would think) should stand in the Fields Undauntedly, after her Attendants had quickly made their escape, yea and have overcome such a Furious Creature as that *Bull* was. This being a matter of Fact, which I thus branch forth into divers circumstances; I hope my Fate shall not be so bad, as to be called a Lyar: Nevertheless, in regard that I judge you one of my best Friends, I will not conceal the Mystery of the matter from you. This person was a man, though in the Habit of a Woman, of great Experience, Agility, and Resolution, who had been well inured to this hard Labour at several other occasions, whom they appointed to be disguised so much the rather, that the Prince of *Wales* might be the more taken with the thing. But not insisting further on this, I shall proceed to the remaining part of my Relation with all Brevity and Perspicuity possible.

Noblemen of singular Magnanimity, being mounted on Horses, incomparable Nimble and Pretty, with costly Harness Beseeming the Dignity of their Riders, and the Splendor of the Festival; appear in great State and Pomp. Whose Grooms in a most decent manner carry the Launces with which their Masters intend to dispatch the *Bulls*. (Their Province and Charge is to irritate the Rage and Fury of the furmidable beast.) Those Heroick minds managing their Launces most Dexterously, accomplish their Noble purposes very often by Killing or Wounding the Foaming Animals; Which if they fail to do, then the Horses sustain great prejudice, in so much that their Riders are Dismounted, whom it behooves in that case to Encounter with the *Bulls*

a Foot, Lashing them with Broad-Swords; which if any decline to do, he is Baffled, and Branded with the Character of Pusillanimity and Cowardice. You may easily imagine that Generous Spirits will prefer Death to such an Ignomy and Reproach. Thus three or four persons of Quality continue until it be pretty late, at which time they drive out a *Bull* covered all over with Artificial Fire, by which he is rendered most Furious and Hurtful: For Curiosity and want of further order, induces the Rable to approach so near unto him, that by his most dreadful pushings many sustain Mutilation, yea and Death it self; in so much that a Tragedy is often times the Conclusion of this Solemnity.

In the last place of this Relation it may be worth the while to give a brief Account of a notable instance of Folly in a Young Lady, and Passionate Temerity in three Gallants, while the King and Nobility were present. Three Gentlemen, *Marcus Antonius*, *Charles* and *Ludovicus* fell over Head and Ears in Love with a certain Lady of good Extract and Education, being the only Child of her Parents, and then about the Age of Twenty Years, whose Name was *Margareta*. Those Rivals could hardly look upon one another without Menaces and Frowns, of whom while any one endeavoured, after the *Spanish* Custom, to make a Sweet Pleasant Melody in the Hearing of the Lady, then the other two disturbed him; which did breed many and great Quarrellings in the Streets each Night, insomuch that the Ladies Parents and all others dwelling near that place, were highly offended thereat, which when *Margareta* had Espyed, having (it seems) very little

little Affection for any of them; directed Letters to them severally, for preventing of all such Disorders for the future; of which Epistles the sum and Tenor follows.

Gentlemen,

I Cannot be induced to believe that Musick accompanied with scandalous Disturbances, can be termed a Testimony of sincere Affection; yea, it seems that you aim more by such a course to disgrace and baffle my Name; than to testify any real respect to my Person: Therefore I earnestly intreat you may be pleased to desist from such a Foolish, Unmannerly and Scandulous Action. But if all this cannot be sufficient to put a stop to the Folly of your Exorbitant Affections, I shall pose you with this experiment. Whoever resolves to express his Dexterity, Courage and Agility to all Beholders sufficiently, and his Ardent Love toward me, let him Buckle with the Bull to Morrow in presence of all the Assembly, and he who shall be so Fortunate as to cut off his Neck, and present me with his Horns, may be assured by my Subscription, that I shall not decline to own him for my Husband: Which if any or all of you refuse to do, get you gone; for Effeminate men are none of those I aim at, or desire to be joyned unto.

Farewel from

*Margaret.*

This pertinent and smart Letter Non plus'd all the Rivals, seeing thereby a Province was prescribed them, which they never dreamed of, nor judged

any

any ways Honourable; because Noblemen (such as those were) how desirous soever they be of never desired to Combat with the Gallantry, and very seldom on Horseback; yet notwithstanding all opposition and Refusal they, lest they should be branded with the detestable Character of Pusillanimity, they unanimously consented to the Proposition; each of them signifying it partly by almost Passionate Letters, that he was absolutely determined to satisfy her demand, as die. Wherefore all the time appointed, they remained with the Ladies, that more ease and speedy Access might be obtained to appear in the performance of a thing in which their Credit was so nearly concerned. Where they interposed themselves, until the Noblemen well Mounted were about to Encounter with their Rivals; at which time *Metrea Antonius* lightly dressed, got most Nimbly on the *Bull's* back, intending by that means to dispatch him quickly with his Drawn Sword. Next to him appeared *Charles*, whose business and work it was to Catch hold of the Rivals Horse, which fell out so Fortunate according to his desire and design, that she suddenly stumbled by the first Assault; so that *Antonius* fell to the ground. *Hedevicus* espying *Charles* sticking fast to the Horse, and *Antonius* Dismounted, with a Dexterous and Seasonable stroke, cut off the *Bull's* Neck. *Charles* immediately got to the Lady with the Head, signifying that the condition of the Compact was fulfilled, and therefore he claimed an Interest in her for his Wife. *Isabella* did take it very ill to be thus Trapan'd by Subtle *Charles*, seeing he it was who cut off the Neck, and therefore appended the

Prize.

Prize to be his in all Justice. *Alvarez* moreover being the person who gave first proof of his Magnanimity, (making way for the other two) concluded it highly reasonable that he should be preferr'd before either of them. Which did breed such a wrangling among them, that had not the *Alguazils* or Constables interpos'd, they would have committed a most lamentable Tragedy; being now led to the King, they give an Account of the matter, which when His Majesty heard, he commended, in some respect, their Valour, but could not approve of their Inconsiderateness; being therefore he understood it to be Vanity, if not Cruelty, in the Foolish Lady, rather than any sincere Love, to demand such a dangerous attempt; strict Orders were given that none of the Rivals should persist or proceed in a course so very Foolish. Thus the debate ended.

We have now Impartially described what is considerable in the yearly Festival at *Madrid*. I grant indeed, (as before) that it is a recreation scarcely besetting Christians, whose meekness and Gentleness should not admit of such Barbarous Diversions. Nevertheless, (to speak no more of that) it is generally concluded, that persons appointed for such an Exercise, ought to be furnished, not only with suitable Courage, but also with Agility and Dexterity, to evade the Assaults of a Violent Brute, by which means many become Famous.

Here we may observe how much the *Roman* Playes come short of this Game: For Criminals were there compell'd to Grapple with *Bears* and *Lyons* most Truculent Creatures, of which few can promise themselves the Victory; and thus poor Convicted Pri-

soners

nals suffered a most Cruel Death: To which it may be added, that those Games were chiefly designed to satisfy the Bloody and Vindictive Humours of the people, who rejoyced in such lamentable experiments. It is otherwise here, in regard that no man is constrain'd to undergo this hard labour; neither are Criminals punished with such a Death; but Masculine and Noble Minds desire an occasion of this kind, whereby proof may be given of their Agility and Undaunted Courage. However (as I told in the beginning) it is not my work to praise or condemn this most Ancient and Uncontrolled Custom. All I aim'd at was, to satisfy your commendable Curiosity by describing this Festival, which is judg'd in *Spain* a most Noble Recreation. Our next business shall be to enlarge a little on the History of *Placidus*, of whom mention was made elsewhere.

## *The History of* Placidus.

THis *Placidus* (a youth very much admir'd and prais'd because of his Valiant Exploits) was the Son of *Fadrique* who play'd the Merchant with one *Antonius* in *Sevil*, a City in *Spain* well known, and much commended by Travellers of all Nations and Languages who relate thereof.

Undaunted Courage set out *Placidus* a work to Grapple with a most Violent Brute, after he had remained sometime in *Madrid*; whether he repaired without the knowledge and Consent of his Indulgent Parents for this very end, that in the Flower of

his Age, all persons from the King to the Peasant, might receive a sufficient (I may say wonderful) Specimen of his surpassing Fortitude and Magnanimity.

Here its observable, that *Fadrique* and his Hopeful Son seemed rather to be one Person, than two; for in Nature, Demeanour, Stature, Speech and Countenance, they resembled one another so much, that a quick-sighted man could hardly distinguish betwixt them: Yea, although the Father was a man of 50. and the Son but of 20 years, yet any who look'd upon their Pictures, affirmed stiffly that the one was an exact Pattern to the other: And had not the Eyes of men been a demonstration to the contrary, I am apt to believe that the possibility of such an universal similitude (so to call it) would be thought a *Chymera*. Yet if we consult Authors of good Note and great worth, many instances of this kind may be found.

*Valer. Max.* with great Confidence affirms that *Pompey* the Great, *Varius* and *Publius Libertinus* differed in nothing, but their Vestments; so that if two of them were Arrayed after the same Fashion, a quick-sighted person could not assign a difference betwixt them. It is also written by *Pliny*, that two Boys (the one being a *Syrian*, and the other a *French*) were so very like to one another in every point, that a certain person told them to *Marcus Antonius* under the notion of Brethren. *Antonius* perceiving their Language to differ, Threatned the person who had thus impos'd on him, to whom the other replyed, *If they had been Brothers, I would not require so great a sum of Money, because in*

*in that case Nature could not be said to bring forth so great a wonder, as now you see.*

If it be true in any respect, that (according to the *Philosopher*) similitude begets Affection, how much more in this instance of *Fadrique* and *Placidus*, whose mutual love was wonderful beyond that of most persons in such a Relation. Yet by the Interposition of *Agnes*, a Young Lady of singular Endowments and Education, the Brightness of this Splendid Passion suffered in some measure an Eclipse. This Beautiful Object became the Center of their Desires and incontaminate Love, which could not be smothered long: Wherefore they discovered their Maladies to one another in a most Friendly manner, and determined (after a Serious and Mature consultation) to submit the event of the matter in hands to the Young Ladies and her Mothers Arbitrement; insomuch that the person excluded, should remove from his Native Country, lest by his Presence way might be made for Jealousy, whose effects are more dangerous no where, than in *Spain*. After this both of them met with bad Entertainment, and small Encouragement at the hands of *Agnes* and her Mother: Yet in Process of time *Fadrique's* Riches and Constancy, had great influence on the Matron. It is true the Youth of *Placidus* was no small motive to obtain the respect of the Pretty Lady: Nevertheless Bagg of Money were an Argument *a fortiore*. After both Parties had pondered severally the Circumstances most remarkable, the Mother speaks to her Daughter after this manner.

*My Dear Child, you see there is no Solid Objection which can be brought against those Worthy Persons who have set their Affections on you; and therefore, I judge it most reasonable, that you freely declare your own Sentiments in this Affair. I know the Neatness and Youth of* Placidus, *will have great weight with you; and on the other hand* Fadrique's *declining Age will in some measure alienate your Affections from him: But hearken diligently my Daughter to the Dictates of right Reason, rather than fond Fancy, which misleads many in your Circumstances; and you shall find Riches, and Experience more eligible, than undaunted Youth, or any other imaginary foundation, on which the Superstructure of your Desires and Designs are fixed. That this may yet have the greater weight in your estimation, consider how much Riches contribute to beget Esteem and Honour in this City where we live; So that Persons of Noble Extract, lose their Dignity frequently with their Wealth. What is Beauty but a Fading Flower, which Nature in a short time, or some unexpected accident will prey upon, and reduce to nothing? Let a Brisk Gallant discharge to admiration all the Punctilio's of Court-Education and Activity; will that purchase Food and Raiment? Whereas Money Answers all things; without which Trading and Commerce should die. I judge it superfluous to make an enumeration of the qualities of Gold which we Eat, and with which we are clothed. Hence arose the Proverb,* That is Gold which is purchased by Gold; *which saying renders it most universal, seeing all things are valued at some rate or other. It is true, I confess,* Placidus *is inferior to few Gentlemen in Probity and Reputation; but its a*



*true*

tune, his Father, (though Rich) has many Children, and may in all probability beget many more; whether then will the Riches amount to, which must be divided among so many? You know if it were possible to divide the Ocean into many Rivulets, the vast Collection of Waters would appear very inconsiderable, in respect of what it now is. But I pass by this Topick, least you may suspect Interest prevail with me. In the next place therefore, let us consider whether or no you can promise your self as great satisfaction in the one, as the other: Not at all; for, whoever is Married to Placidus, must necessarily be in a Slavish subjection to his Father, his Brethren, Sisters and Relations; whereas the Wife of Fadrique will enjoy Immunity from such a bitter lot, as being above and beyond the reach of all those Censurers.

Alas! alas! Woful experience the School-mistress of Fools, has furnished me with this Observation; as witness those Gray-Hairs, brought forth untimously by Excessive Grief and Sorrow. Shall you deck your self with the Finest Needle-Work, and most Gorgeous Raiment possible; then Black-mouth'd Backbiters will readily misconstrue your Modesty. If on the other hand, such a decorum be neglected, why (say they) she is not content with her Lot and Condition. You cannot frequent Divine Worship without the Character of Levity or Hypocrisy; nor further such a Religious Observance; but immediatly Accusation will be taken of branding you with the stigma of an Irreligious wretch. In fine, the Eyes of all Relations will be fixed upon you, that you cannot promise your self Satisfaction and Tranquility in the most minute circumstance. And it may be added further, that such

and

*an uncharitable multitude may so influence your Husband with prejudice, that in a very short time, the greatest of all your Miseries shall arise from his Jealousy or unbecoming carriage towards you.*

*If so be then, that by being Espoused to* Fadrique, *no such Inconveniencies can in reason be suspected; what remains, but that in obedience to those pressing Arguments of your Loving Mother, and in relation to your own future Contentment, you cheerfully assent to the Proposals of the Father without the least Reluctancy imaginable.*

Those Pithy motives founded on Reason and Experience, wrought a sensible and suddain change upon *Agnes*; insomuch, that in a thundring manner, she decided the whole matter in Favours of *Fadrique*, which conclusion produced no less Sorrow to *Placidus*, than Contentment and Joy to *Fadrique*. Whereupon dejected *Placidus*, (according to his Passion) without any more delay, forsook his Native Country, having got from his Father about 1000 *Guinies*, who left it to his choice to suspend his time in *India*, *Italy*, or the *Low-Countries*, being to receive Money upon Bill according to the Custom and Necessity of Gentlemen while Abroad.

When he had come to *Naples* in *Italy*, his Genius inclined him to play the Souldier, as being an Imployment, by which Honour and lasting Renown is most attainable. After a few Months there, he enjoyn'd his Trustee to certifie *Fadrique* and all Relations of *Placidus* Death, that Entercourse of Letters might be stop'd, which he judged the fittest course and method to free him from Pensive Melancholly; but all this could not Eradicate a Passion so deeply rooted.

*Fadrique*

*Fadrique* by Successful Traffique attained quickly to vast Possessions, which with a Vertuous Wife, might be supposed a Pleasant Condition. Yet, notwithstanding all this, the want of Children was matter of great Grief to him: Wherefore, (that his Memory might not die with himself) he resolves, without delay, to distribute his Riches among his Nephews, *Charles* and *Bernard*, who are brought to him for that purpose. Their Uncle and his Lady Entertain the Boyes with all the Expressions of Joy and Kindness possible. In a very short time their good Behaviour and Affability did procure unto them a great many Friends and Acquaintances in *Sevil*, where they pass under the Notion of *Fadriques* Sons. The Old mans love to his Nephews rose to so much the greater height, that he perceived himself decaying more sensibly than could be expected by the course of Nature, not being as yet 60 years, whereas *Agnes* appeared more Brisk than ever.

Thus *Charles* and *Bernard* discerning that their Uncle had in a manner centered the Comfort and Tranquility of his Decript Old-Age on them, waxed Insolent and Disrespectful towards *Agnes*, whose Prudence taught her to obviat the very beginning of this evil, by representing such Enormities to her Indulgent Husband. The Old man complying with his Wife, appointed a Lodging elsewhere for his Nephews, with all things necessary, and suitable to their Condition: which course no ways abated the Insolence of the Young men, but rather increased the same; insomuch that they branded *Agnes* with Incontinency, and many other Vitious qualities.

At

At this time *Placidus* (having Travelled all *Italy* over) came to *Bononia*, where his Life was in Jeopardy: For happening to be late out of his Lodging, the second or third night after he came to Town, he wandred in the Streets by reason of Darkness, and his Unacquaintedness with the several Corners of the City; at length espyed in a place, some what remote, a Glimmering Light, whether when he had approached, three Cutthroats are found Assaulting one Gentleman with all possible Fury. The Compassionate *Placidus* thinking that a fit season for Charity and Fortitude, became the Oppressed Gentlemans Assistant, by which means two of the Rogues were Grievously Wounded, the third being Smote with the Edge of the Sword.

Having thus Relcued the *Italian* from Eminent Death, not without some danger (for he sustained the prejudice of 2 or 3 Wounds) he calls his Servant to bring his Horse. *James Vitali*, in whose behalf he had Seasonably appeared; Answered, saying, *Sir, Your Ineffable Kindness and Courage calls for my Attendance as a Servant, who am ready and willing to wait upon all opportunities, whereby I may express my Gratitude. I know diligent search will be made for me by and by; therefore (seeing I take you to be a Stranger unacquainted with this City) I intreat you may be pleased to accept of my Company; and by the Grace of God, we shall escape the Rage and Fury of our Adversaries; and I promise to Dress and Cure your Wounds in a very short time.* *Placidus* concluded it highly Reasonable to lay hold on such a good motion: Wherefore *James Vitali* conducted

ducted him from one Street to another, until at last he came to an House, where it's probable, he had been known; upon which consideration, he knocks hard at the door, until such time as a comly Youth had given him access; forthwith, (according to his duty and promise) he dreſſed the wounds of *Pleidaw*, which were not deep nor deadly; enjoyning withal that the Student should go in all haſt to such a Street by name, and return with one exact account of all emergents: whether when the young man had come, he saw all things in a hurly-burly, one man being dead, on which a great number of Citizens are gazing; and orders given to apprehend such as could be suspected any way accessary to such an Assassination. Where also he heard a certain person mentioned, confessing that he was the Servant of one *Pleidaw*, [illegible] told the man. When the Youth returned, he gave an impartial account of all occurrences observed by him. The Gentlemen perceiving [illegible] the result of such a consultation [illegible] in regard that they [illegible] stay to hear the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Having thus [illegible] to know [illegible] in being [illegible] whom [illegible]

My dearest *Pleidaw*, I [illegible] secret [illegible] ing all the [illegible]

for Reasons ) has continued my companion in affliction ( tho' a Stranger ). I lay upon these, and many other weighty considerations ( which my shallow brain cannot comprehend, nor my stammering tongue express ), I will with the greatest candour and ingenuity imaginable discover this matter to you.

I was born at *Rome*, the Queen and Mistress of the World, where ( when I was very young ) my Honourable Parents gave up the Ghost. After that I had sucked in the first and common principles of Learning, my good Friends and Relations sent me to the famous Univerity of *Ramonia*, where I made no despicable proficiency in Philosophy, and all the Languages professed there, which are the *Spanish*, *German*, *French*, *Hebrew* and *Greek*. All which could not satiate my thirsting desires after Knowledge, until the study of Physick became my work and business. But a Lady of singular Endowments

IRREGULAR.

to *Constantinople*, where I was sold very often under the notion of a Slave. At length I was preferred to one of *Mahomet's* Physitians, who finding me pretty expert in the principles of Medicine, was pleased to encourage me with his Fellowship and Instruction, to my great advantage (I must confess) in some respects; whose gratitude was such, that he would not thwart my intention of returning to *Italy*, but rather encouraged me by the Gift of 2000 Guinies.

After a tedious and dangerous Voyage, I came to *Venice*, where (being unknown) the People looked upon many of my Operations and Experiments as Miracles, rather than the product of natural Knowledge; for which cause the Magistrates encouraged me with promises of a very considerable Salary. But all this could not induce me to [illegible] seeing my thoughts and designs were [illegible]

PAGINATION

[illegible] Apparell. [illegible] to *Rome*, where I was entertained with great courtesie by all persons of knowledge, to whom I discovered my various adventures and misfortunes, by which means the noise of my being in Town came to the hearing of [illegible] by a most [illegible] Letter [illegible] Thus perplext was I with [illegible] breaking [illegible]

for Secrets ) has continued my companion in affliction ( tho' a Stranger ) I say upon these, and many other weighty considerations ( which my shallow brain cannot comprehend, nor my stammering tongue express ) I will wish the greatest candour and ingenuity imaginable, discover this matter no

I was born at *Rome*, the Queen and Mistress of the World, where ( when I was very young ) my Honourable Parents gave up the Ghost. After that I had sucked in the first and common principles of Learning, my good Friends and Relations sent me to the famous University of *Renonia*, where I made no despicable proficiency in Philosophy, and all the Languages profess'd there, which are the *Spanish*, *German*, *French*, *Hebrew* and *Greek*. All which could not satiate my thirsting desires after Knowledge, until the study of Physick became my work and business. But a Lady of singular Endowments and Quality, being pleased to honour me with the strongest Testimonies of sincere affection, diverted me from prosecuting the most pleasant of all Studies. How secret soever this matter was kept, the Ladies Brother understood it; which prompted him with two other Conspirators, to lie in wait for my life: and undoubtedly had become a prey to their Envy, if by the Divine Providence ) one of the three had not fumished me the method of

Then I determined to travel through *Spain* and *Germany*, but being driven upon *Genua* by a Storm, I fell sick, and was forced to stay there, which brought me to *Argier*, and then

to *Constantinople*, where I was sold very often under the notion of a Slave. At length I was preferred to one of *Mahomet*'s Physitians, who finding me pretty expert in the principles of Medicine, was pleased to encourage me with his Fellowship and Instruction, to my great advantage (I must confess) in some respects; whose gratitude was such, that he would not thwart my inclination of returning to *Italy*, but rather encouraged me by the Gift of 2000 Guinies.

After a tedious and dangerous Voyage, I came to *Venice*, where (being unknown) the People looked upon many of my Operations and Experiments as Miracles, rather than the product of natural Knowledge; for which cause the Magistrates encouraged me with promises of a very honourable Salary. But all this could not induce me to stay, seeing my thoughts and desires were more earnestly set with returning to *Rowena*, where I had enjoyed so many pleasant dayes. I could not imagin that it was possible for any in that place to know, or after the absence of six compleat years, which time I thought might quench the ardour of any passion, that her name cannot be remembred, nor my love towards her suppress'd. Upon these considerations I came to *Rowena*, where I was entertained with great courtesie by all persons of knowledge, to whom I discovered my various misfortunes and difficulties, by which means the noise of my being in Town came to the hearing of *Camilla*, who [illegible] by a most [illegible]

Chamber, whereupon we entertained a most comfortable Dialogue founded on the solid hopes of obtaining our longed for desires. I resolved to decline and reject the profession of Medicine in the University of *Bononia*, merely, that *Gemella*'s Brother, and his Associates, might not in the least suspect me whom they hated with an inveterate hatred, which time nor dignity could not eradicate. Nevertheless, by debating, I obtained the honour of that place. Then Engines of Cruelty are set a work to dispatch me some way or another; and (I must confess) the Rogues had accomplished their corrupt design, if by the Divine Providence, your seasonable Charity and Magnanimity had not rescued my Life from their malice. In Testimony therefore of my gratitude, I protest to remain your most faithful friend and Servant, while breath, declaring to that end a willingness of encountering you to your, or any where else.

*Placidus* was very much struck with the grateful acknowledgments, and protestations of lasting kindness, so artfully expressed by *Violetta*. Yet, being unwilling openly to discover his thoughts, he answered the other in a most courtly and complementing strain: Sir, you may confidently assure your self of my unalterable good will, whenever you be, or how ever I may, I shall be ready to serve you. Then *Placidus* perceiving *Violetta* to be a

which

which real kindness consists (if the heroic philosophers) a few days after they came to [illegible] where (as all along their Peregrination) their thoughts were alleviated, by giving an impartial and free account to one another of their diverse misfortunes, and so much the more, in regard that *Ulysses*, by his superlative knowledge, and jocose humble disposition, was a Physician no less capable to remove the sadness of the mind, than the Distempers of the body. Yet *Florida*, in some measure, continues dumpish and pensive, so that *Ulysses* intended to enquire and inform from the original and cause of so lasting sadness, and did every day ply him on, in order to his resolution for mirth, that *Florida* is allured to discover the perplexity of his mind, after this manner. Your prudence and gentleness enticeth from me a secret, which I have not disclosed to any, after which [illegible] compact with him, (while both of them had a longing desire to enjoy the vertuous and beautiful *Agnes*) where by the instigation and persuasion of her covetous Mother, [illegible] embracing *Fedrigus*. In a word, he did put off the lustful Pupillo, which could satisfie the curiosity of *Ulysses*, who replying, answered thus [illegible] My dear Florida, [illegible] good observation for there is no Malady so great, which aright cannot be easily applied with so much the better diligence, that the Patient can discover his Distemper sufficiently, as you have done, and therefore I confidently promise (being taught by [illegible] moments [illegible] experiment [illegible] eyes)

eyes; enough, after mature deliberation; most obvious. All I crave is, that you condescend yet once more, to walk with me in the Streets of *Sevil*.

Having thus Embarqued at *Genoa*, they arrived at *Barcelona*; from whence they sailed by *Tarragona*, *Valentia*, *Alicant*, *Cartagena*, and the borders of *Granada*, until they came to *Malaga*, and at length to *Cadiz*, the Haven of St. *Mary* and St. *Luke*, and sailed thence all along the River *Betis* to *Sevil*; where (being in strangers apparel) they search for a convenient Lodging; in which *Placidus* abode, while the intelligent *Pistol* went abroad, informing himself, the best way he could, about the state of Affairs in *Fadrique*'s House; which he understood exactly, and returned to *Placidus*, signifying how indulgent dying *Fadrique* was towards his insolent Nephews, *Charls* and *Edwards*; as also that *Agnes* look't as brisk as ever. In a word, he answered the most particular questions so fully, that *Placidus*'s Grief was in a great measure assuaged.

The learned *Pistol* gave such proof of his knowledge in Physick by sundry wonderful Experiments, that in an instant his Name spread abroad. *Agnes* therefore hearing of such an expert Physitian, thought it her near concernment and duty to consult with him concerning the nature of *Fadrique*'s disease which was concluded mortal by all other Physitians in *Sevil*. *Pistol*, having visited the old man, discerned Nature shrinking, and Death approaching. Nevertheless, to encourage the Lady, he confidently affirmed, in the presence of many learned and Judicious men, that the Disease was not mortal;

which

which ought to be continued with [illegible]
terms founded upon the most solid and genuine
Philosophy, so that no place was left for cavil, all
Physitians there present, being perswaded of the
truth of his Discourse. Which comforted *Agnes* so
much, that with great intimacy in private Confe-
rences, she searched into *Viva's* sentiments in this
affair. The expert Physitian failed not at such a
time, to make mention of *Placidus*, whose valiant
exploits he praised with such Eloquence and admi-
ration, that the Ladies pristine love revived, and
prompted her to enquire very concernedly where
he lived, and whether there was any truth in the
noise of his Death. The smart *Viva* by such que-
stions, perceiving much affection to center in the
Ladies breast towards *Placidus*, answered her
thus:

*Madam*, I am obliged to declare the truth, and
cannot sufficiently declare what is true concerning
his lasting renown abroad, nor how constant and
Christian his love has been to you: otherwise, the
excessive grief of his spirit, had undoubtedly ren-
dred him desperate, and accessary to his own death.
The rumour of his Death, implied that his love
might be termed dead, because without the hope of
enjoying its object.

God knows (said *Agnes*) how much I desired
to be reconciled to him; but Fortune has so ordered,
that I should be the Wife of *Fabricio*, though much
against my inclinations. Yet, I must add (for
this subject is pleasant) that the love of *Placidus* is
of great force with me to this hour. If (saith) I
am obliged every way to bear a suitable respect to

*Fa-*

Fadrique, who has continued all along a kind Husband, never believing the odd aspersions with which his insolent Nephews *Charles* and *Bernard* endeavoured to brand me.

I know (said *Vitelli*) that many Waters cannot quench Love, but it must break forth after some manner or other. And methinks, the Divine Providence has conducted me hither in a good season; therefore, seeing that I am perswaded that (according to the course of nature) *Fadrique* cannot live fifteen dales, *Madam*, (if you be pleased) I shall, in the mean time, contrive and carry on matters so dextrously, that by your Husbands last Will, and without the least opposition, you may enjoy your beloved *Placidus* instead of his Father. I have heard *Fadrique* (replied the Lady) at sundry times, in a most pathetical and passionate manner expressing sorrow and grief for the Death of his great, and real friend *Placidus* (as he called him) For (said he) if my Son were alive, I would dispose of my substance to him and you, ordering withal your co-habitation under the notion of Husband and Wife. But (supposing *Placidus* be yet alive) our union will meet with great opposition from *Fadrique's* insolent Nephews. Nay, *Madam* (said he) leave that to me; for I am willing to lose the reputation of a Gentleman, yea, and life it self, if I do not carry on the matter so wittily, that in great peace, without the least shadow of fear or danger, you shall enjoy *Placidus* for your loving Husband. Thus *Agnes* went to her Closet with great joy. *Placidus* could not easily be perswaded of the possibility of the matter; yet he

com-

companions pregnant wit and knowledge, [illegible] some confidence to him, for *Vitell* had undertaken not only to remove *Fadrique's* present Diseases, but also to renew his Youth and Strength, affirming that by such means (a sophism indeed) *Fadrique* might attain to the enjoyment of his longed for *Agnes*: For which cause (said the ingenious *Vitell* in the presence of learned Physitians) you shall in a very short time perceive, *Fadrique* brisk and vigorous, with Teeth, Hair, and Colour suitable to the age of thirty or forty years. Those learned men laughed him to scorn; and the Lady doubted of the matter greatly. But to put an end to doubting, and mocking, he spake to the Physitians in the presence of *Agnes*, *Charles* and *Bernard* after this manner:

I must confess the opposition of such judicious men might terrifie *Galen*, *Hyppocrates*, and *Esculapius*, of whom it's reported, That he raised himself from the Dead. How much then may a Novice (such as I am) tremble when I consider that I have undertaken in your presence to demonstrate, how the radical moisture may be restored; insomuch that decrepit old Age shall be constrained to Clothe it self with the Colour, Vigour, and other Qualities of brisk Youth? Nevertheless, the Secret which attends much reduced to practice, revives my fainting Spirits; so that with confidence I assure the certainty (as well as the possibility) of my demonstration, which I shall endeavour to evince in the *Spanish* Tongue, (though with no small difficulty) for the satisfaction of *Agnes*, and *Bernard*, the Parties mostly concerned.

know very well, Experience, Authority and Reason, are the surest foundations by which any truth can be supported; From all which my Proposition shall be made evident.

The Learned *Arnaldus, Villa Nova, Tully, Paracelsus, Cardanus*, and others, whom we need not mention, favour us in this point; as also the Alchymists *that wise*: so that Authorities abound with us.

In the next place, *Blasius de Taranta* affirms that in *Saguntum* in the Kingdom of *Valentia*, there was a Nun of sixty years, whose age was renewed, having Teeth, Hair, Colour and Vigour, as if she had been but thirty years old.

And *Antonius Torquemada* in his Dialogues, gives us an Account of an Old Man, who was restored to strength, being one hundred years old; after which wonderful change he lived fifty years. From which Author and common Tradition, we hear of such an instance in *Toledo*. All learned men know that [illegible] related by *Gulielmus de Gallonius*, lib. 8. And by *Petrus Maffeus*, lib. 2. Hist. Ind. how that a Noble Man of *India* lived Three hundred and forty years, in which time his Age was renewed thrice.

If we consult reason, we shall find her no less favourable than Authority or experience; For what

is

of Youth, but an equality or proportion of natural heat and radical moisture: For, according to Galen and all other learned Physitians, the difference of the Ages is deduced from the different proportions of the natural heat. And Aristotle affirms, that the nature of Old Age consists in Frigidity and Siccity; from whose Explication, Lib. de Long. & brev. vitâ we learn, that such men wax old soonest, whose Life has been attended with greatest labours and cares, which cause a diffipation of the natural heat. Therefore (if this be true) it follows, that Humid Medicaments, with hot Potions and Applications may restore decaying Age, by reducing the radical moisture, and natural heat to such a proportion as they enjoy in Youth. And it is observed, that the Divine Providence has furnished divers Stones, Herbs and Waters with qualities, which (if known) would silence all cavillings in this matter. It is reported by Cardane, Lemnius, and Paulus Christa, that in Bohemia and Lorain Wells are extant, whose Waters are more delicious than the choicest Wines, having in them vertue to renew a man's Age: This is confirmed by Aristotle, Lib. 2. Hist. Mirab. Cap. 12. and other Authors of great note. Homer also mentions the like of Hebrus. Agrippa thinks although the complete compiling of Physick from such strange effects be not common, yet it is a most profitable to infer, therefore we ought to know them: Yet no man in sober reason can deny, that Spirits are contained in Herbs, Waters and Stones; which being once granted, it necessarily follows that these, when well examined and applied, may serve to carry on such a rare work, as I now

mention, and am about to demonstrate. Further, it's observable that I have been travelling many years, by which I had occasion to discourse with *Mahomet's* Physitians, as also with *Arabians*, *Persians*, and *Phenicians*; upon which consideration it may be suspected that I know things not discovered as yet in this place: Wherefore, I shall, (with God's Grace) restore *Fadrique* to strength and health, seeing I perfectly understand his malady and Complexion. But you may ask, if in such a case he may be called young? I answer, not at all; but that he is in a better disposition for life according to his nature. Now if this Theory suffice not to stop the Mouths of Wranglers; the matter shall be put beyond all doubt by practice. Thus ended *Viteli* his pertinent Discourse. Who (after the dying Old Man had been committed to him) made a *motion*, that none should disturb him by coming into the room where he was to tarry with the sick Person, except such as he called; and that Apothecaries should grant him what Simples he pleased to ask; all persons consented to those demands; but none more cordially and chearfully than *Agnes*, who was privy to *Viteli's* design. The next day was appointed for the work. *Viteli* having repaired to his Lodging, discovered to *Placidus* how much he was applauded by the Physitians; and also that *Agnes* was exceeding glad, the young men *Charles* and *Bernard* being much dejected: and he perfitted in the former confidence that all things would succeed aright, and be brought to an happy issue. He strictly charged *Placidus* to shew all Society, considering that the Non-observance of that Rule, had a ne-

necessary tendency to marr the curious contrivance. Then he returned to the Patient, to whom he gave a portion, which being mingled with a little Poyson, set the Old Man's Tongue at work, giving vigour and Agility to his body in a short time, to the admiration of all Beholders.

After which *Vitelli* spake privately to *Agnes*, saying, Madam, *Fadrique* will not in all probability live nine daies: therefore it's convenient to call *Placidus*, seeing the Old Man in his last Will has made you his heir, appointing a thousand pounds for each of his Nephews, to either of which if you be married, the Possessions set apart for you are lost. But, if you choose *Placidus* for your Husband, he must in all reason receive the half of his Fathers substance. Now you see how nearly you are concerned to hearken to my Propositions, seeing matters shall be so dextrously carried on, that all persons will conclude *Fadrique* yet alive. This I hope will prove acceptable and comfortable to you and *Placidus*, whom I ought to serve according to my capacity while I live.

## CHAP. IV.

The Old Man, will go down to the Grave with Joy, by this course, which will create affliction to his insolent Nephews. Not long after *Fadrique* dyeth, and is buried after a most clandestine manner; in whose place they substitute *Placidus*, whom all persons affirmed to have been *Fadrique* restored to Health and Vigour. Which business being fully concluded to the satisfaction of the Parties chiefly concerned; *Vitelli* prosecuted his design of Travelling,

Sir, I shall add no more concerning the Solemnity at *Madrid*, and the History of *Placidus*, wishing that your pleasure in reading may correspond to the defect entertained to satisfie your curiosity in writing the same.

Farewel.

FINIS.